

Stono (Jordan's Point)
Institute Hill
Lexington
Virginia

HABS No. VA-900

HABS
VA
82-LEX,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

STONO (JORDAN'S POINT)

HABS No. VA-900

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82-LEX,
6-

Location: Institute Hill, Lexington, Virginia

Present owner: Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher, "Stono",
Lexington, Virginia.

Present use: Residence of the owners.

Brief statement of significance: Home of John Jordan, prominent
Lexington builder and industrialist of the early
nineteenth century. Built by Jordan in 1818, it is one
of the earliest examples of the Classical Revival in
western Virginia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION.

A. Physical History.

1. Original and subsequent owners (chain of title):

In the Rockbridge County Recorder's Office:

- (a) Will of John Jordan probated August 3, 1854.
Will Book 13, p. 126.
- (b) Deed from George W. Jordan, executor for Lucy
Jordan, to Mary Jane McK. Shewan, October 1, 1869.
Deed Book KK, p. 359.
- (c) Deed from M.J. McK. Shewan to Anne R. Howell,
December 24, 1883. Deed Book WW, p. 38.
- (d) Deed from Virginia Military Institute and S.H.
Letcher to Anne R. Howell, October 15, 1886.
Deed Book ZZ, p. 101.
- (e) Deed from William Jenks and wife to Anne R. Howell,
June 1, 1901. Deed Book 92, p. 73.
- (f) Will of Anne R. Howell probated April 17, 1908.
Will Book 34, p. 303.
- (g) Will of Emily P.H. Campbell probated June 24, 1908.
Will Book 34, p. 367.
- (h) Deed from Arthur Howell Gerhard et als. to John L.
Campbell and Bertha Howell, July 6, 1909.
Deed Book 106, p. 181.
- (i) Will of Bertha Howell probated November 16, 1927.
Will Book 44, p. 149. (Result 3/4 undivided interest
in "Stono" vested in John L. Campbell, 1/4 vested in
Arthur Gerhard.)
- (j) Will of Arthur Gerhard probated September 6, 1949.
Will Book 63, p. 172.

PART I.

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- (k) Deed from William Gerhard et als. (executor and trustee of Arthur Gerhard, deceased) to John L. Campbell, December 11, 1950. Deed Book 209, p. 355.
- (l) Deed from John L. Campbell to William J. Driver, July 1953. Deed Book 220, p. 290.
- (m) Deed from William J. Driver to Baldwin G. Locher, December 18, 1958. Deed Book 247, p. 102.

Note: WPA files in Virginia State Library state that "Stono" was built around 1800 by Samuel McDowell Moore and sold to John Jordan in 1846. However, Moore in fact sold only the water rights to Woods Creek to Ira Jordan.

- 2. Date of erection: 1818 is given by most sources. Mr. John S. Moore gives the date as 1819 because records show that Jordan was taxed only on land until 1820.
- 3. Architect: John Jordan, who built and designed many buildings in Lexington in the early 19th century. Jordan supervised the building and the manufacture of supplies (brick and ironwork).
- 4. Original plan and construction of building:
There are no original plans.
The original house has a two-story temple-form central part with two-story portico. On either side are one-story wings of one room each. An original porch is behind the left wing. The original kitchen was in the basement where there is a wide fireplace with swivel pot rack.
- 5. Notes on alterations:
There have been many alterations and additions over the years but the integrity of the original house remains.

An old room which was originally an outbuilding behind the house (and which according to Mrs. Locher was used for weaving) was connected to the house when rooms were added to the rear of the living room by Anne Ruffner Howell who purchased the house in 1883.

There were changes made in the house in the area of the present hallway and in the stairway between the entrance hall and the living room. Just what the original plan of this area was has not been determined. A new floor has been laid in this hallway by the Lochers.

PART I.

A. Physical History.

5. Notes on alterations:

The cornice in the entrance hall, dining room and living room is not original. Mrs. Locher thinks it was added by the Drivers. WPA forms prepared in 1936 state that there are no cornices.

The Lochers have exchanged the mantels of the fireplaces in the entrance hall and in the library. They have cut a door from the dining room (to the present kitchen) where originally there was a window, and have remodeled and made additions in the kitchen area.

The original porch behind the left wing was extended with an addition next to the part of the house added by Mrs. Howell. There are some old steps under this newer part of the porch.

The Lochers have replaced some window sash, and in the living room have put in a new picture window in the alcove which appears to be a later addition. Bookcases have been added in the library.

At some time a front door with glass panel had replaced the original door. The Lochers have replaced that with a panel wood door.

According to Mrs. Albert L. Lancaster, the name "Stono" was given to the place by the Howell-Campbell family from whom she is descended. This had been her home.

[Interviews with Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher, "Stono", and Mrs. Albert L. Lancaster, "Little Stono", Lexington, Va.]

6. Old views:

A photograph taken during or shortly after the Civil War, in the possession of the Lochers, shows Jordan's Point (Stono) and the burned ruins of Virginia Military Institute, with a canal boat on the river below the house. [This photograph is reprinted in Lexington Gazette, Bi-centennial Edition, 1938, Section 4, p. 7.]

B. Historical events and persons associated with building:

John Jordan, its builder and original owner, was a very prominent figure in Lexington in the first half of the 19th century. A leader in the iron industry, he was responsible for the construction of the first highway over North Mountain to the west, a toll bridge over the North River, the Balcony Falls section of the James River Canal, the Central Building at Washington College, and many handsome homes in the Lexington area.

PART I.

B. Historical events and persons:

Mrs. Anne Ruffner Howell was the daughter of William Henry Ruffner, the first Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia.

According to Mrs. Locher the house was damaged, though not severely, by shells when General Hunter invaded Lexington and burned the Virginia Military Institute in 1864.

The house has long been associated with families who have been leaders in the community and in the state.

C. Sources of information on the house and the Jordans:

Interview with Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher, "Stono", Lexington, Va.

Interview with Mrs. Albert L. Lancaster (Emily Campbell, daughter of John L. Campbell), "Little Stono", Lexington, Virginia.

Interview with the Rev. John S. Moore, Manley Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, Virginia.

Isley, Willard. John Jordan, Builder. Paper for Fine Arts 106, Washington and Lee University, May 4, 1967.

Loth, Calder C. The Ante Bellum Architecture of Washington and Lee University. A thesis presented to the faculty of the School of Architecture, Univ. of Va., in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architectural History. May, 1967.

Ruffner, William H. "Continuation of the History of Washington College," in Washington and Lee University Historical Papers, No. 4. Baltimore, John Murphy & Co. 1893.

Waddell, Harrington. "Colonel John Jordan", a paper printed in the Rockbridge County News, April 14, 1938.

Boley, Henry. Lexington in Old Virginia. Richmond, Garrett and Massie, 1936.

Fishwick, Marshall. "John Jordan, Man of Iron." The Iron Worker, Autumn, 1957, pp. 1-8.

Fishwick, Marshall. "John Jordan, Virginia Builder." The Commonwealth, October, 1950, pp. 13-14, 39.

Moore, John S. "John Jordan: Rockbridge Baptist Layman." The Virginia Baptist Register, No. 2 (1963), pp. 52-63.

Morton, Oren F. A History of Rockbridge County. Staunton, Va., McClure Company, 1920.

McClung, James W. Historical Significance of Rockbridge County. Staunton, Va., McClure Company, 1939.

Tompkins, Edmund P. Rockbridge County, Virginia. Richmond, Whittet and Shepperson, 1952.

O'Neal, William B. Architecture in Virginia. An Official Guide to Four Centuries of Building in the Old Dominion. Published for Va. Museum of Fine Arts by Walker & Co., New York, 1968. Page 165.

Lexington Gazette, December 29, 1931, p. 5.

Prepared by: Mary Stuart (Molly) Gilliam
Lexington
Virginia

February, 1969

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION.

A. General statement

1. Architectural interest and merit:

It is one of the earliest examples of Classical Revival in western Virginia. "The central 2-story mass of Stono, with its low wings, is derived from earlier practices, but its neo-classic portico marks it as a house of its own time.... The house is full of interesting provincialisms." O'Neal, W.B. Architecture in Virginia, p. 165.

2. Condition:

The house is in excellent condition, having been restored and remodeled by Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin G. Locher (the present owners) after their purchase of it in 1958.

B. Notes on the Exterior:

1. Two-story temple-form central part with two-story portico; symmetrical one-story wings extend on both sides of the main part. Later additions are behind the central part.

2. Foundations are of stone.

3. Wall construction - brick, Flemish bond

4. Structure - wood framing, brick bearing walls

5. Porches

(a) Two-story portico with full balcony (Views 1, 13)
Simple balustrade

4 Tuscan columns of hand-moulded brick, plastered
2 half-round engaged columns

Wooden cornice, half-round gutters

Tympanum - textured plaster, has semi-circular window
Tray ceiling, plaster

(b) Porch at rear of left wing was probably part
of original house. (See Part I, A., 5.)
Two original brick columns here

6. Chimneys - 3 in original house

7. Openings -

Front door - semi-circular arch brick, panel jams - wood
Fanlights over front doors, 1st and 2d floors.

Windows - 6 over 6 double hung
segmental brick arches with brick infilling

8. Roof - A-roof over central part, A-roof over wings

Metal

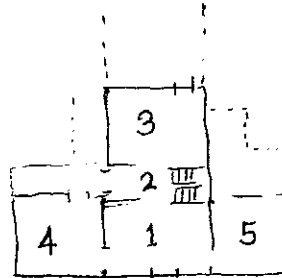
Half-round gutters

Cornice of moulded S-shaped bricks, a device often
used by Jordan

PART II.

C. Notes on Interior:

1. Floor plan



1. Entrance hall
2. Hall, stairway
3. Living room
4. Library
5. Dining room

2. Stairway (Views 5,6)

The handrailing ends in carved dog's head
Turned spindle rectangular in section
Stairway breaks into ceiling of living room
(See Part I, A., 5.)

3. Flooring - the floors of the house are mostly original
random width pine boards, except in the stairway hall.
In this hall is a parquet floor, recently laid.

4. Wall and ceiling finish - plaster and paper
Chair rail in all rooms forms window stool

5. Decorative features

Handome mantels (much like style of McIntyre)
The mantel shelf returns beyond the breast of fireplace
Each fireplace faced with cast iron made in Jordan's
shop nearby Jordan's Point
Fireplace in living room has a fireback with air space
designed to move hot air into the room. (View 9)
Upstairs front bedroom has fireplace which has been
called a "bustle fireplace"
Semi-circular fanlight in the arch between entrance hall
and stairway repeats design of front doorway. (View)
Reeded casings of windows and doors
Window trim - 2-part with ogee back band

6. Outbuildings:

- (a) Office - (View 2) A square brick building on
stone foundations with pyramidal metal roof
and S-shaped brick cornice. Mrs. Locher says
this was built before the main house.
- (b) Ice house - (View 8) round, of limestone
Probably about as old as the main house
- (c) Stone building - (View 4) said to have been used as
the summer kitchen. Now used as studio.
(Mrs. Lancaster thinks this was built
between 1898-1910)

Prepared by: Mrs. McCluer Gilliam
after consulting
Mr. Nathaniel Neblett, Architect
Lynchburg, Virginia

Date of visit: February 13, 1969